

District 5130 Youth Exchange May 2008



District Conference – 2008



Cathy Garo
France – Sebastopol

Hi everybody I kind of forgot about this quarter report so I guess it's going to be short we'll see! So this last two months were pretty good I had lots of FUN! School is going pretty good too. I got some really good grades! So I'm proud of me 'cause it really wasn't easy at the beginning for me (maybe because I did not really work). And this last two months I made some new friends it's never too late!! I also went to some parties, which were really good, and soon I'm going to make my own party for my birthday 18!! I mean I'm not sure if I'm doing one yet!! Anyways I'm also going to prom soon and my prom is on the boat in the bay of San Francisco and I'm going to take a limousine with some of my friends for the first time!! So I'm really excited! So since last time I'm still in the same host family and I still love them they make me laugh a lot and they always make me happy when I'm not! They are just awesome and I love spend time with them! I just love my life here because the people are so nice they're always smiling at me they are listening me I just wish I could come back later in my life! I was going to forget during the weekend I love go to the beach with my friends and spend more time with them! I also went to a camp with the interact club and it was so much fun I met people from others school which was pretty cool. I just realize that I only have a little bit more than one month in this country time is going so fast I appreciate every moment spent here to not regret anything! And I never really got homesick 'cause the people around me were always nice with me. To conclude I would like to say thank you to the Rotary 5130 and my Rotary in Sebastopol for always being nice with me and for letting me spend this year that is one of the best of my life which I always will remember so, Thank you for everything.



Fabio Locati
Italy – Sebastopol Sunrise

All is going good :). The time is flying away and we are already in May. In a few weeks I'll have the AP Physics Exam. I'm studying a lot for it and I hope it will be enough. See you soon.



Ornella Bua
Belgium – Crescent City



Hello Everyone!! I hope you're doing as great as I do. A lot of things have happened since December, so I'll try to make it short. My Christmas Vacation was really the only time I felt a little homesick here. After that I was really busy and everything went too fast to realize I was away from home. In January, I had my winter ball and also a dance concert that my high school dance class organizes each year. It was pretty fun. The last weekend of January I went down in San Mateo next San Francisco for my host sister cheer competition. It also makes me visit more towns around. Then in



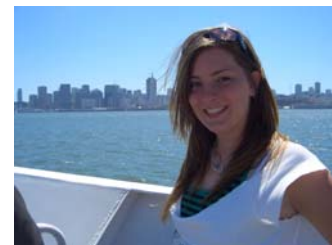
February, we had this awesome ski trip together. It was good to see you again after this long time waiting. I loved it and my first time snowboarding was more fun than I expected. In March I had the opportunity to go to NEW YORK with my high school dance class. We spent 5 days there in a hotel's suite in the centre of Manhattan. We took some dance classes at famous dance schools and visited the city. I had a blast, it was absolutely fantastic and I really want to go back there one day!! During my spring break, someone from rotary took Cat, the Brazilian exchange student, and I to Portland. We visited the city and do some shopping. I love to see how big towns in the US are so different. I thought Portland was really cute. The last weekend of March I went down to San Jose to see another cheer competition. In April I flew to L-A to go to Disneyland and California Adventure, and also to visit Beverly Hills, the campus of USC, and other places. I loved it, we were staying in a hotel in front of Disneyland and I really think it is the happiest place on earth.



I'm looking forward to go with you guys on the western safari trip. Now it's already May and the following weeks are also busy. I have prom this weekend. Then a spring dance concert the weekend before our San Francisco trip, which I'm really excited about. I can't wait to see all of you, it's been so long and I miss you!! End of May, I'm going to Sacramento. Then June is there with the finals and graduation, and finally the Western Safari Trip, that I've been waiting for my all year!! I know it will be the most amazing memory and I know it will be the end too. I feel really, really sad about that. The time to leave is sooner that it seems. It's just going by too fast and I want to slow it down. I've enjoyed my year more that I could imagine, I did and saw more things than I expected. It was the most wonderful experience that happened to my life and I'm glad you were part of it too. I'm so thankful to Rotary and my host families. I love you all and it will be so nice to see you in San Francisco. Until then, take care.



Julia Wiencke
Germany – Cloverdale



Hello my favorite exchange students!! So far everything's still the same I guess.

I'm having the best time of my life! School is going great and I still meet new people and get more friends. The relationship to my family is pretty much awesome and I am happy that I am still living with them. They are like a second family to me. Also Prom is gonna be this weekend and I am nominated for prom queen. I found a really cute dress and I have a date. It's gonna be so much fun. I'm really excited! In Spring break I went to the coast with my host



family. We had a picnic and a lot of fun! And last weekend I went to San Francisco with the Interact Club! We went to a baseball game and I caught a baseball and a shirt. It was awesome I love baseball!! Well besides that I was on the tennis team but we ended the season last week at Konocti at the Championships where I played doubles but lost in the Semifinals. But I met Paulo and David! We had a lot of fun at the match! So far that's all I guess. I don't know where I stopped the last time. By the way my mom is gonna be here in 4 weeks. And I will be graduating by the end of the



month. It is actually really sad because I'm gonna miss all of you! And also the friends and the family I got in the States! I wish you guys a great rest of the exchange year. Enjoy every minute! I will. ;) I love you guys!



David Koeppel
Switzerland – Kelseyville Sunrise

Hey everyone how is it going? I've been really good in the last couple months. After an awesome time in Hawaii my counselor took me to Phoenix and the Grand Canyon. Our trip ended in Las Vegas where we saw Elton John live. Only a week



after Spring Break my real mother's friends in Hollywood invited me over. It was just amazing. My friend Florian an exchange student from Germany and I were at Jay Leno late night show in the first row. We came on TV;-) Later on we also met Keanu Reeves. Bruce and Martha who let us stay at their house gave us private showings in a Editor studio where they showed us new trailers and how they work on movies. It was amazing how everything works. We also went to the beach in Malibu. After spending half a day at Universal Studios we had to leave the dream world of Hollywood. Next week is our High school prom. My friends and I rented a limo and I'm really excited.



"Beam"
Thipanong Ruangsiri
Thailand – Fortuna Sunrise

What's up! Everyone, this is our last report. My life is going good. I love it here so much. School is so awesome I got a lot of new friends. We're playing soccer in PE. Class now and we're going to play Tennis next I'm so excited. I feel the time is going very fast. My life in here is so awesome sometimes I feel like I don't want to go back home anymore but I still miss my family and friends over there. But I think I only have a year in here and I should have fun do a lot of things and do the best I can for when I go back I'm not gonna just sit and think that why didn't I do that in US why didn't I have fun with my friends. But I'm not gonna be like that cause I like it here so much I went to a lot of places I went to canoe with my host family last month and it was very fun. Last Saturday we have Prom I went there with my friends and I have had a lot of fun actually we just dance and eat whole night so now I'm getting fat. This week we're having a S.T.A.R. test, anyways I don't have to take it so I have nothing to do. Now I'm waiting for the District Conference; I'm so excited that we're gonna meet again. I hope you guys have fun and have a good life in here.



Pedro Moraes
Brazil – Petaluma Sunrise

Hello everyone!! It is hard to believe we are almost done!! The time went by really fast! But



anyways, my year has been great! I learned a lot in this experience!! I am glad the nice weather (that I was expecting to have year around) has finally come back! In my spring break, I went to Washington DC visit some relatives from Brazil, it was great! The city is great, is really beautiful and it reminds me my hometown, Brasilia. I am playing badminton in the high school team and tomorrow I am going to Santa Rosa for the playoffs. Even though it may seem kind of boring it is a really exciting game!! I also went snowboarding a couple more time and went to a baseball game, which was really fun! Prom is also coming up!!



Beatriz Gamboa
Mexico – South Ukiah

Hi. Everything is ok I moved with my third family a month ago and I'm really happy, they are so nice and I have two little sisters, one is 7 and the other one is 9 and I love them. I already had my prom dance and it was really good. I had fun. I'm excited about the San Francisco trip because I'm going to see everyone again so I cant wait.



Paulo Zani
Brazil – Calistoga

Hello EVERYONE! Wooww.. There are SOOo many things to tell... I don't know where to start. School has been pretty good, the last two quarters I was an honor student, now there are lots of lots of tests and papers so it's very busy. I was also in the tennis team, I started playing tennis this year and I enjoyed it Very Much! I had a great time traveling around with the team and going to the games.



Plus all the other people from other schools that I met at all the matches. I went to a Tennis Championship in Clearlake as well. Despite all that commitment I've traveled a lot too. On my spring break I went to Washington State and stayed in Seattle with my first host family, I also visited the State of Oregon. I did one of my favorite things which is VISIT OTHER EXCHANGE STUDENTS: I helped Thomas presenting a class of "exchange experience" in a school in Santa Rosa, Thomas and Pedro came to Calistoga and we went Snowboarding with a Rotarian, I went to Clearlake to visit Eve, Gilberto and Pedro came here and we went to a baseball game together, I saw Julia and David in the Tennis Championship, I went to Ukiah and went to Betty's Prom and also went to Arizona to visit a former exchange student from my hometown that now lives there. I am really excited for the next trips with Rotary as everyone else. I'm now living with my third family and it's been good. I still have my Senior trip and my Prom to go. My calendar is full of fun activities, which makes me happy. In the other hand I see my calendar getting close to my departure day which makes me think of what this whole exchange year has been to me, I know the day I'll go home but I don't know if the spirit of exchange student will be over by then. It will last long and will be with me Forever! I hope everyone else feels the same. TchaU!!!!



Celeste Ortiz Reynoso
Argentina – Eureka

Hey everybody! This is the last report! I can't believe the year went by so fast! I had a great year and I hope everyone else did too! I'm so happy for everything and very thankful! You guys are my family! I hope we can see each other after this and for the ones i am going to see in the western safari I can't wait!! We are going to have so much funnnn!!!!!! I'm going to miss you all!!





Evelyn Vela
Mexico – Clear Lake

Aloha!! :) i hope all of you are very good! Wow. Time goes soo fast! And I cant believe that this wonderful experience is almost over!! Since the year started everything is soo busy! Christmas was unforgettable! New Years too! I ate a lot and party with my host families! So much fun... and then I changed families. In Ukiah we celebrated Betty's birthday with Fernando, Celeste, Paulo, Kristof, Me, Caro, who said goodbye to us :(.. and then the Foundation Dinner at Santa Rosa came where some of us took some pictures with the



Rotarians and also with the District Governor Ken and his wife Pam. It was a really nice dinner! we had a lot of fun :) . By Feb. Fernando did a get together in Mendocino with Kristof, Betty, and me... a beach so cold but so pretty! We hang out and visit all those gorgeous stores at the port. Drinking coffee and having a great time! And then Hawaiian Trip!!! I lived one of the best trips ever!! I met all this exchange students of all US from different parts of the world! We went to hikes, shopping, and we met the Hawaiians such a nice people! And the culture so rich! Very, very nice. I had one of the best experiences. I learned even more to dance Hula! And speak Hawaiian! ...With all those people (Rotarians Hawaiians) I had an experience that I will never for get in my life. But this was not enough one week a go I just came back from Hawaii again! My host

parents took me to the Big Island and what a nice place! Totally different of Oahu. The Volcano is amazing all the lava over the place and the beaches very nice! I went scuba diving and we took a tour in a little plane for all the island! We had so much fun. Also, getting back from Hawaii I met with the District Governor Ken Moulton and his wife Pam in Healdsburg we had a weekend together with Claire too and we had so much fun!.. we participate in a Parade also in a Western Fundraiser at the Cloverdale Rotary Club besides it was really nice to spend the weekend at their house. Lastly I would say that i feel so thankful with Rotary I love my host family and all the people around me 'cause I'm having such a wonderful time here at Clearlake and for all those opportunities trips good experiences that I had lived and the ones that are coming soon!! I can't wait to see you all at the District Conference in San Francisco. xoxo



Miriam Schwaaf
Germany – Garberville

Hey everybody! A lot of stuff happened since the last report and the time flew by so fast. I started running track and it's lots of fun. We go to a lot of meets and even went to Oregon. I like the sport and my team is awesome. I'm having lots of fun. Then I went with a lot of other exchange students on the



trip to Hawaii and it was amazing. The weather was so nice and we went to the beach everyday. It was so much fun and I miss everybody who went on the trip. Last weekend we had prom and it was an awesome experience. It was fun getting all dressed up and I had a wonderful time with all my friends at the dance. At the end of May I'm going on my Senior Trip to Disneyland and hope I'll have a good time with many of my new friends. Then I'm graduating and right after that I'm going on the Western Safari Tour. I'm so excited! I can't believe that the time of my exchange is almost over and I'm going back to Germany. I'm looking forward to see everybody again but I will miss my friends and family here so much. I have had a wonderful time and it was an incredible experience. I'm looking forward to see everybody for the last time at the District Conference in two weeks and hope we will have a lot of fun like we always do!!!



Claire Pattou
France – Windsor

Hi everybody! I did a lot of things since the last report like going to Hawaii! It was so fun to meet other exchange students, go to another place, a really beautiful place with really nice beaches and tropical forests! It was a really fun week where we saw another cultures under a really good sun from who I get burned the first day! I had my prom too! It was funny to do it! It was like the movies! I was stressed to not find the good dress etc. but I had a really good moment with all my friends here! I went to Mexico where I swam with dolphins and visited a Mayan temple! It is a family of Rotarians who proposed me to go with them with one friend! Over there I did an action! I gave soccer classes to 3 different teams! It was amazing moment! OH! And I changed of family! I am actually in my third and last one! I have a sister Kayla! I am really happy to be and to live with her because she is my friend since the beginning of the year! I went to fly around the county and San Francisco! It's beautiful the view you can have in the sky! I hope you will have this chance to do that! I went to do water board! That was cool! I fell 3 times and after I stand and I had a lot of fun at the Sonoma Lake! I think that is pretty much my last two month! There is other kind of stuff I did but that was the principal! I love you all guys! See you.



"Max"
Panupong Akaradetstitsuk
Thailand – St. Helena

Hi everyone, this is max. Firstly, sorry for a late report. There's only about one month and a half left. It has been a while. Time's going by so fast. I feel like I got here last week. It's almost a year already. I've been through a lot. I've made some good friends in the other side of the world. I've learned many lessons that I'll never get to learn if i don't experience it myself. I now know how to make a good decision. Frankly, I would come back here if i could. I know I'll miss people here a lot. At last, I wanna say thank you to the Rotary. I actually have already said a lot about this when i was giving a speech in San Francisco. It's gonna be hard to say good bye. It's gonna be hard to get through the re-entry time. It's gonna be sad and excited to leave my beloved people here and go back to see my family and people I grew up with. Nevertheless, thank you very much for giving me my life opportunity to see something outside of my own little world. I'm proud to say that the Rotary makes me become a NEW BETTER PERSON now.



Catherine Nascimento
Brazil – Del Norte Sunrise

Hi everybody!!! So the time is up for all of us, I have to say that I'm having a really hard time right now saying good bye to all of the people that during this year were my family , my friends , the people that helped me and made me feel as part of a family. But I don't want to say that I'm sad too, because it is so good to look back and see how much I have grow in a year, and it is awesome to see how wonderful was the experience to meet people that I have never seen in my life and in such a small period of time they were all I had, and today I can certainly say that I love. Thank you guys for been part of my family, and made my year one of the best years of my life. Always remember that if some day you guys go visit Brazil you already have a house and a family waiting for all of you. Thank you ROTARY!! You guys make the difference in the world and we learned with you how to be good people and make the difference wherever we are. Thank you!





Anna Lejonhufvud
Sweden – Fort Bragg



Hi everyone! I can't believe that the time has run by so fast! Only a month left... I don't want to go home!!! Graduation is coming up only three more weeks of school then summer. I'm so glad that we have the Western Safari trip coming up soon it will be an awesome trip! My year in Fort Bragg has been a blast. The friends I have made here will always have a special place in my heart and my host families are the best you can ever have! This year has also taught me a lot about myself and when I go back to Sweden in July I know that I'm more than just one year older. I'm so jealous of all the Outbounds that



are going away! They have such an adventure in front of them! Even though this year has been tough in many ways it has also been the best year of my life. For me Fort Bragg is my home now and leaving this place will be the hardest thing I've ever done. "Don't cry because it's over smile because it happened!" I think we all read Cecelia from Italy's speech and agreed that this quote is so true! Thanks Rotary for being the best exchange organization ever



Kristof Radics
Hungary – Ukiah

I had a great year so far. School is still boring but I have many friends. I was in the swim team but the season is over now. In March I went to Hawaii with my sister and with friends. After the San Francisco Conference I went to San Diego for a week. I had a lots of fun in the last few months. I hope San Francisco Conference was not the last time when I saw you guys! I'm really gonna miss you guys!!!



Jannik Mikkelsen
Denmark – Southwest Eureka

My year has been just amazing. Words cannot describe what I have experienced. I have made tons of friends and already some of my best friends' families are planning on visiting me in Denmark next summer so I know for sure that I have made friends that are going to last forever. My host parents took me to LA back in October which was a great experience so I decided to share it with my real parents when they flew in from Denmark in late April. I drove with them to LA and back up to Humboldt where my first host family and me showed them around. My first host dad has been the most important person for me during my stay. When I first got here he helped me with literally everything until I had figured it all out myself. My first family would have liked me to stay with them the whole year but my Rotary Club requires that I stay with at least three different families but I still maintained close contact to them and my host dad ended up being my counselor. I can't thank him enough for all he has done. I feel after like I have seen pretty much all different sides of the American culture since I have moved around. I started out with a family where I for the first time experienced to be an only child. Then I moved to a family with 5 kids where I was the oldest and then currently I'm staying with a family where I have a brother my age and an older sister. I feel like I have seen it all

through my families and my friends so I am really thankful for this experience. I have had "the year of my life"! THANK YOU ROTARY!



Gilberto Neto
Brazil – Arcata

HEY! This is the last quarterly report, THE LAST! Can you guys imagine it? Me neither. Everything has gone so fast this year. When I started writing it moments came through my mind of times that we spent together as FAMILY. However, as a wonderful group that we are, we should look back and see all we have done, but not being melancholic but wishing that it can and will come through our lives in the future. All right! Let's stop this boring stuff, and BE HAPPY! :D I love all you guys, and hope to see you guys as soon as possible, because I'm going to miss each one of you. And remember...this is not the end of this super-mega-cool family, but just the beginning.



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Building World Peace.... One Friendship at a time!*